

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SNM-02 SCS-03 SCA-01

SY-05 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /058 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:RSTRAND/AF/E:WBCOOTE:CRJ

APPROVED BY AF:EWMULCAHY

S/CCT:RAFEAREY

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O 212257Z JUN 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 146729

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, PINS (SMUTS, BARBARA), (SMITH, KENNETH STEPHEN),

(HUNTER, CARRIE JANE)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS

REFS: A) DAR 1980; B) DAR 2194; C) STATE 146043; D) COOTE/

FEAREY/STRAND/CARTER TELECON OF JUNE 21

NAIROBI ALSO FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS

1. DEPARTMENT IS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THREAT TO SUCCESS OF VANCE MISSION IF RELEASE OF CAPTIVES, IN EXCHANGE FOR PAYMENT OF RANSOM AND POSSIBLY PRP PRISONERS, PROCEEDS WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF GOZ. AT SAME TIME, OUR CONCERN ABOUT SAFE RELEASE OF STUDENTS NEEDS NO EMPHASIS. GIVEN INFORMATION WE HAVE ABOUT ZAIRIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY ON LAKE TANGANYIKA, WE ALSO BELIEVE SAFETY OF CAPTIVES COULD BE IMPERILED IF EXCHANGE PROCEEDS WITHOUT EXPLICIT GOZ (AS CONFIDENTIAL

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WELL AS TANGOV) ASSURANCES OF SAFE PASSAGE.

2. QUESTIONS THEN ARE WHO APPROACHES GOZ, WHEN, AND HOW MUCH DO WE TELL THEM ABOUT STATE OF PLAY:

A) WHO?

GOZ COULD BE APPROACHED BY USG, TANGOV OR DUTCH GOVT (EITHER THROUGH RESPECTIVE AMBASSADOR IN KINSHASA OR BY MESSAGE FROM HIGH-RANKING PERSONAGE). FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE,

IT SHOULD PROBABLY BE ONE OF THE LATTER TWO. WE WOULD HOPE NOT TO ENCUMBER VANCE MISSION, AT LEAST AT BEGINNING, WITH USG DEMARCHE AND/OR DISCUSSION RE KIDNAPPING SITUATION. AMBASSADOR CARTER INDICATED IN REF TELECON THAT HE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO ASK TANGOV TO TALK TO GOZ ON THIS QUESTION. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ELABORATION OF THIS VIEW.

B) HOW MUCH? MOBUTU MAY BE EXPECTED TO BE UPSET BY RANSOM PAYMENT IN ANY CASE AND TO BE LIVID IF HE THINKS USG INVOLVED AFTER ASSURANCES WE HAVE GIVEN HIM THAT WE WOULD NOT PAY RANSOM. GIVEN LIKELIHOOD--ALMOST A CERTAINTY, IN OUR VIEW--THAT INFORMATION ABOUT RANSOM WILL SOON LEAK OUT, BELIEVE IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO INFORM HIM IN ADVANCE ABOUT RANSOM AND MAKE IT CLEAR THAT IT IS BEING PAID NOT BY US OR DUTCH GOVTS BUT BY PARENTS AND OTHER PRIVATE PARTIES WHOM WE HAVE NO LEGAL MEANS TO RESTRAIN. ON THE OTHER HAND, POSSIBILITY MUST BE CONSIDERED THAT IF MOBUTU KNOWS ABOUT PRIVATE RANSOM IN ADVANCE HE WILL ACT TO PREVENT PAYMENT.

C) WHEN? WE WOULD THINK CHANCES FOR SUCCESS IN VERY DELICATE VANCE TALKS WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY GREATER IF RANSOM/CAPTIVES EXCHANGE, AND CONSEQUENTLY NECESSITY OF DEMARCHE/DISCUSSION WITH GOZ, COULD TAKE PLACE AFTER INITIAL MOBUTU-VANCE TALKS. WE WOULD NOT RPT NOT WISH THIS, HOWEVER, AT REAL RISK OF JEOPARDIZING SAFE RELEASE OF CAPTIVES.

3. URGENTLY REQUEST COMMENTS OF ACTION ADDRESSEES ON A-CONFIDENTIAL

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BOVE QUESTIONS.

4. FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE: PENDING RESOLUTION OF QUESTIONS PARA TWO ABOVE, BELIEVE YOU SHOULD NOT RAISE ISSUE OF KIDNAPPING WITH MOBUTU. IF HE ASKS WHERE THE MATTER STANDS, YOU MIGHT SAY THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE IN PROGRESS WITH TWO PRP REPS IN DAR ES SALAAM BUT THAT YOU NOT INFORMED IN DETAIL. IF MOBUTU ASKS FOR MORE INFORMATION, YOU CAN OFFER TO ENQUIRE AND BRIEF HIM LATER.

5. IN VIEW OF NYERERE'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN RESOLVING THE CASE, AS INDICATED DAR 1980, WE WOULD HOPE THAT UPON HIS RETURN TO DAR HIS APPROVAL OF ARRANGEMENTS AGREED UPON

WITH PRP NEGOTIATORS WOULD BE OBTAINED, THROUGH WHATEVER CHANNEL APPEARS BEST TO THOSE ON SPOT. BELIEVE QUESTION OF SAFE PASSAGE OF STUDENTS AND PRP REPS ACROSS LAKE MUST ALSO BE DISCUSSED WITH NYERERE AND HIS ASSURANCE OF SAFE PASSAGE WITHIN TANZANIAN TERRITORY OBTAINED.

6. UNTIL QUESTIONS PARA TWO ABOVE ARE RESOLVED, BELIEVE NEITHER US NOR DUTCH SHOULD REQUEST ASSURANCES OF SAFE PASSAGE FROM GOZ PROPOSED DAR 2194.

7. WE CONSIDER IT WOULD STILL BE DESIRABLE FOR DUTCH TO SEEK GOZ AGREEMENT TO RESTRAIN MILITARY ACTIVITY IN PRP AREA TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE UNTIL CAPTIVES ARE RELEASED (STATE 146043). UPON FURTHER REFLECTION, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD NOT BE REASONABLE OR WISE TO ASK GOZ TO SUSPEND ALL PATROLS. SINCE KIDNAPPING, GOZ MILITARY HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO ATTACK BY PRP AND SEVERAL OF ITS SOLDIERS REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN KILLED. TO ASK GOZ TO SUSPEND PATROLS WHICH IT DOUBTLESS REGARDS AS ESSENTIAL TO PROTECTION OF ITS TROOPS AND TO THAT OF CIVILIANS ON PERIPHERY OF PRP AREA WOULD BE PROVOCATIVE AND POSSIBLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. WHAT CAN MORE REASONABLY BE ASKED, AND WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO US AT THIS JUNCTURE, IS THAT GOZ RESTRICT PATROL ACTIVITY TO MINIMUM REQUIRED FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES AND THAT IT ABSTAIN FROM OFFENSIVE ACTION AGAINST PRP. SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, TERRORISTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE146729
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/C:RSTRAND/AF/E:WBCOOTE:CRJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750217-0361
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197506102/baaaaanib.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <16 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: CASC, PINS, CG, US, (SMUTS, BARBARA), (SMITH KENNETH STEPHEN), (HUNTER, CARRIE)
To: DAR ES SALAAM NIACT
KINSHASA NIACT INFO THE HAGUE
NAIROBI
BUJUMBURA
BRUSSELS
Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006